

(b) whether the Government propose to increase the export of rubber products;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the total quantity of rubber products with its volume which is likely to be exported during 1997-98 ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) The production and consumption of Natural Rubber/Raw Rubber and Synthetic Rubber in the country during the last three years are as under :

(in thousands MT)

Year	Natural/Raw Rubber		Synthetic Rubber	
	Production	Consumption	Production	Consumption
1994-95	472	486	64	123
1995-96	507	525	68	134
1995-97 (e)	549	570	64	143

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to increase the export of rubber products include extension of Market Development Assistance, liberalisation of policy and procedures, promotional measures like exchange of trade delegations and participation in Trade Fairs abroad and exchange and dissemination of information through Export Promotion Council (CAPEXIL)

(d) The estimated value of rubber products likely to be exported during 1997-98 is Rs. 1390 crore.

Open Cast Mine Project

4343 SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether Western Coalfields Limited authorities have allocated mine sites to one of the Ispat Group for Bhatadi Open Cast mine project in violation of the rules;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against the allotment of site for Bhatadi Open Cast Mine project; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) and (b) Bhatadih

Opencast project has not been allocated to any private organisation and is being worked by Western Coalfields Limited.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[Translation]

Disinvestment Fund

4344 SHRI MAHENDRA SINGH BHATI :
SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal regarding setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from the budget for the public sector undertakings is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which final decision is likely to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) and (c) There is no proposal for setting up a disinvestment fund instead of financial support from budget for the public sector undertakings. It has, however, been decided to set up a revolving fund out of part proceeds of disinvestment to supplement budgetary support being extended as at present.

[English]

India Brand Equity Fund

4345 SHRI SANAT KUMAR MANDAL : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether his Ministry has decided to leverage specialised international funds to raise the Rs. 500 crore corpus for the India Brand Equity Fund;

(b) if so, the total funds tapped so far;

(c) how are these to be used to promote Indian generic products;

(d) how these funds are likely to be managed; and

(e) how the India Brand Equity Fund is expected to concentrate on some selected markets and products and its role in boosting exports ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b)

India Brand Equity Fund (IBEF) was registered on 11.7.1996. 12 Trust Members including Chairman consisting of eminent people in the respective field have already been appointed. The first meeting of the Trust was held on 5.12.1996. The objective of the Trust is to raise a corpus of Rs. 500 crores. The proposed source of funding of the Trust includes Government budgetary support, contribution by trade and industry and income of the Fund. Government has already given budgetary support of Rs. 50 crores to the Fund during 1996-97. As regards leveraging specialised international funds to raise the corpus of IBEF, no such decision has been taken by the IBEF Trust. However, in the first meeting of Trust on 5.12.1996, a suggestion was made by one of the Members of the Trust that efforts should be made for accessing the international financial institutions for augmenting the resources of the Fund. Total fund with the Trust presently is of the order of about Rs. 63 crores.

(c) to (e) It has been decided by the Trust that Approach Papers regarding programme content, operations, priorities etc. of the Trust would be prepared and a final view in the matter would be taken by the Trust after consulting the apex chambers, export promotion councils and commodity boards. So far as management of the fund is concerned, it has been decided to entrust the job to institutional portfolio managers, the selection process in respect of which has already started.

Diesel Cars

4346. SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA :
SHRI SATYAJITSINH DULIPSINH GAEKWAD :
SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA :
SHRIMATI LAKSHMI PANABAKA :

Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether a number of car manufacturers including Multinational Companies (MNCs) have submitted proposals for manufacture of diesel-cars;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the decision of the Government thereon alongwith policy of the Government to promote the diesel car ?

THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN) : (a) to (c) Manufacture of passenger cars is delicensed and no approval of Government is necessary for manufacture of petrol or diesel cars. Government has, however, approved a number of proposals for foreign collaboration since the year 1992 some of which are stated to be for manufacture of cars based on petrol, some on diesel and some designed both for petrol and diesel. The details of these approved proposals are given in the Statement attached. Government does not make any distinction between the cars based on petrol or diesel and the choice is left to the manufacturers and the market forces.

Statement

	Foreign equity participation	Project cost (Rs. in crores)	Annual capacity (fuel indicated by co.)	Implementation Schedule
1	2	3	4	5
1. Birla Group of Companies (Hindustan Motors) with General Motors of USA.	50%	300.00	25,000 (Petrol)	Production already launched (Open Astra)
2. Premier Automobiles Ltd. with Peugeot of France.	50%	318.00	60,000 (Petrol/Diesel)	-do- (Peugot 309)
3. TELCO with Mercedes Benz of Germany	51%	75.16	20,000 (Petrol)	-do- (Mercedes E-220)
4. DCM with Daewoo Motor Company of Korea	74%	653.00	1,60,000 (Petrol)	-do- (Geo)
5. Mahindra & Mahindra with Ford Motor Co. of USA	50%	2500.00	1,25,000 (Petrol/Diesel)	-do- (Escort)
6. Sriram Industrial Enterprises Limited with Honda Motor Company of Japan	90%	855.00	30,000 (Petrol)	1997-98